



DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

Department of the Army

[Docket ID: USA-2023-HQ-0006]

Proposed Collection; Comment Request

AGENCY: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Department of Defense (DoD).

ACTION: 60-day information collection notice.

SUMMARY: In compliance with the *Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995*, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers announces a proposed public information collection and seeks public comment on the provisions thereof. Comments are invited on: whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information shall have practical utility; the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden of the proposed information collection; ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and ways to minimize the burden of the information collection on respondents, including through the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

DATES: Consideration will be given to all comments received by [INSERT DATE 60 DAYS AFTER DATE OF PUBLICATION THE FEDERAL REGISTER].

ADDRESSES: You may submit comments, identified by docket number and title, by any of the following methods:

Federal eRulemaking Portal: <https://www.regulations.gov>. Follow the instructions for submitting comments.

Mail: Department of Defense, Office of the Assistant to the Secretary of Defense for Privacy, Civil Liberties, and Transparency, 4800 Mark Center Drive, Mailbox #24, Suite 08D09, Alexandria, VA 22350-1700.

Instructions: All submissions received must include the agency name, docket number and title for this Federal Register document. The general policy for comments and other submissions from members of the public is to make these submissions available for public viewing on the Internet at <http://www.regulations.gov> as they are received without change, including any personal identifiers or contact information.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: To request more information on this proposed information collection or to obtain a copy of the proposal and associated collection instruments, please write to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, 441 G Street NW, Washington, DC 20314-1000, ATTN: Ms. Kathryn Nevins, or call 703-428-6440.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

TITLE; ASSOCIATED FORM; AND OMB NUMBER: Red River Navigation Transportation Rate Survey; OMB Control Number 0710-RRNS.

NEEDS AND USES: The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) operates and maintains much of the nation's inland navigation infrastructure of locks, dams, and channels. Inland navigation improvement studies conducted by the Corps typically use surveys of shippers, carriers, and others to estimate the impacts on proposed waterway traffic of alternative capital and operations and maintenance investment strategies. The data are used to estimate, among other things, alternative mode cost, shipper response to changes in waterway transportation cost and reliability. This information is used in planning studies for evaluation of projected benefits associated with various plans. The USACE Tulsa District (SWT) and the Red River Waterway Commission request approval of a survey instrument that collects information from business owners to analyze potential benefits associated with a proposed navigation channel along the Red River from Denison Dam to Index, AR. The survey will assist in analyzing how businesses in the region currently transport their commodities and how the option of a navigable waterway would affect these movements. The primary questions to be answered are:

- What are the commodities currently being shipped?

- What modes of transport do regional shippers currently use?
- Would shippers use a waterway transport if available and to what degree would they use it?

Respondents will be businesses in the study area that could use the proposed navigation channel. Respondents will be identified based on analysis of data from the Surface Transportation Board and with the assistance of the Red River Valley Association, which has numerous contacts with regional business and industry groups. These businesses will be selected based on primary types and volume of commodities shipped and surveys will be provided to respondents with the opportunity to respond. SWT will conduct follow-up phone calls if necessary. Surveys will be conducted using telephone and in-person interviews, as well as via an online survey platform. The Red River Valley Association will assist in garnering industry support for completion of the survey.

Information from the questionnaire items for the collection of planning data is needed to formulate and evaluate alternative water resources development plans in accordance with the Principles and Guidelines for Water Related Land Resources Implementation Studies, promulgated by the U.S. Water Resources Council, 1983, which specifically identifies interviews with shippers, carriers and port officials as well as commodity consultants and experts to; identify commodity types, study area, commodity flow, estimate transportation cost and forecast waterway use. In the Corps of Engineers Engineering Regulation 1105-2-100, "Planning Guidance Notebook," benefits are defined as transportation cost reduction benefits, including shift of mode and shift of origin-destination and new movement benefits. Failure to gather this information would result in Corps studies relying on incomplete or dated information regarding the cost and use of the navigation systems and the impacts of proposed capital improvements.

AFFECTED PUBLIC: Businesses or other for-profit.

ANNUAL BURDEN HOURS: 100.

NUMBER OF RESPONDENTS: 100.

RESPONSES PER RESPONDENT: 1.

ANNUAL RESPONSES: 100.

AVERAGE BURDEN PER RESPONSE: 1 hour.

FREQUENCY: Once.

Dated: February 14, 2023.

Aaron T. Siegel,

Alternate OSD Federal Register Liaison Officer,

Department of Defense.

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